

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3 and 6-17 are pending. Claims 3 and 11 have been amended. Claims 4 and 5 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added.

Claims 3, 10, 11, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shirai. Applicants traverse the rejection. Claim 3 is directed to an internal voltage generating circuit in a semiconductor memory device. The claim recites, “a comparing means for comparing a voltage level of an internal voltage with that of a reference voltage; a pull-up driving means for performing a pull-up operation for an output terminal in response to an output signal of the comparing means; and a first discharging means for discharging the output terminal when the voltage level of the internal voltage is higher than a predetermined target voltage level in response to the internal voltage, wherein the first discharging means includes a plurality of active loads connected between the output terminal and a ground voltage in series; and a second discharging means for discharging the output terminal in response to a power supply voltage.” Shirai does not disclose the first and second discharging means in the manner recited. Claim 3 is allowable at least for this reason. Claim 10 depends from claim 3 and is allowable at least for the reason claim 3 is allowable.

Claim 11 recites, “a comparing unit to compare a voltage level of an internal voltage with that of a reference voltage; a pull-up driving unit to perform a pull-up operation for an output terminal in response to an output signal of the comparing unit; and a discharging unit configured to discharge the output terminal in a period of which the voltage level of the internal voltage is higher than a predetermined target voltage level, the discharging unit including first and second discharging components, wherein one of the first discharging unit, the second discharging unit, and combination thereof includes a plurality of active loads provided in series between the output terminal and the ground.” Shirai does not disclose the above recited features. Claim 11 is allowable at least for this reason. Claim 17 depends from claim 11 and is allowable at least for this reason.

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1 and 2 and indicating claims 4, 6-9 and 12-16 include allowable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher Li, Reg. No. 57,247
for Steve Y. Cho, Reg. No. 44,612

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 415-576-0300
Attachments
SYC:srb
60693169 v1